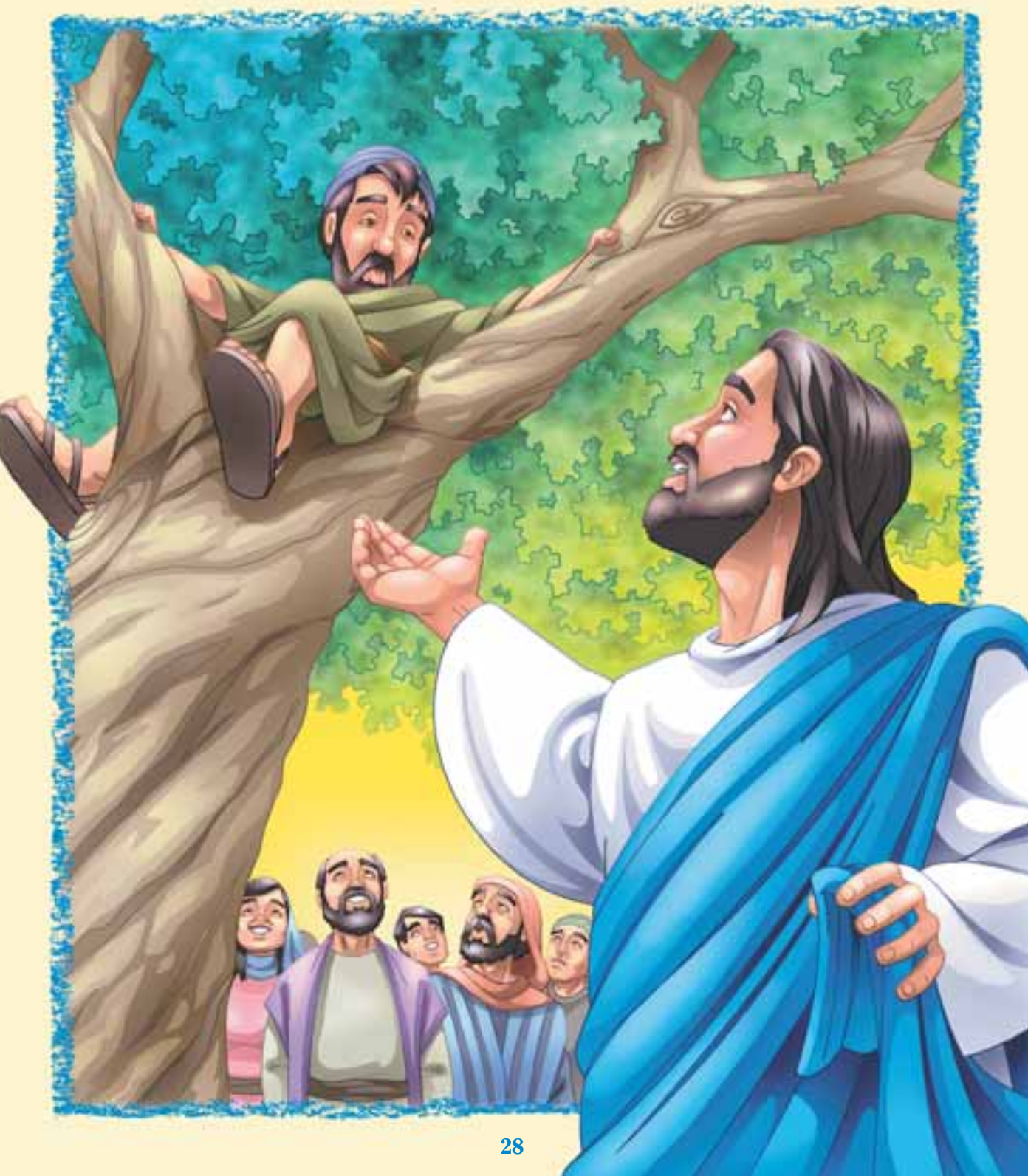




LESSON 6

REFERENCES: LUKE 19:1-10; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 552-556.

Too Short to See

*Do you know someone that other people don't like?
Do you think Jesus likes that person? What would
you do if you knew no one liked you?*

P

eople didn't like Zacchaeus.
Why didn't people like
Zacchaeus? Because of his
job. Zacchaeus was a tax
collector. He took extra

money from poor people to make himself rich.
That was stealing. And people didn't like it.

One day

Zacchaeus heard that Jesus
loved everybody. *I wonder if Jesus loves me*, he thought to himself.
No, Jesus can't love me. I took people's money.

Did Jesus love Zacchaeus? Of course He did, because Jesus
loves everybody!

Zacchaeus decided that he would not cheat people anymore.
He wanted to be like Jesus. He said he was sorry to the people and
started to give back the money that he had wrongly taken. But the
people still didn't like Zacchaeus! They didn't believe him. They



Memory Verse

“[Jesus] came to
seek and to save
what was lost.”

LUKE 19:10, NIV.

The Message

Jesus wants
everyone to be in
His family.

wouldn't even let him come to church. Zacchaeus was sad and discouraged.

One day Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho. That was his town! Oh, he just had to see Jesus! Jesus had changed his heart! Jesus would understand how he felt.

Zacchaeus walked into the crowded streets. He was a short man, so he couldn't see over the tops of the people's heads. He was going to miss seeing Jesus! He turned and quickly climbed up into a nearby tree. Higher and higher he climbed so that he could see better. Then he saw Jesus coming!

Suddenly Jesus stopped right under that tree! He looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."

The people were so surprised! They couldn't believe that Jesus would want to go to Zacchaeus's house—to the house of a cheater!

Zacchaeus hopped out of that tree and took Jesus home with him. Now he knew that he was forgiven. He knew that Jesus loved him. Jesus told Zacchaeus's whole family how much He loved them and wanted them to be part of His family. He told them that He had come to earth to save everyone, including them.

Zacchaeus wanted to do things the way Jesus did. He looked at Jesus and said, "I want to give half of my money to the poor. To the people that I've cheated, I want to give back four times as much as I took. I want to love everybody the way You do."

Jesus was happy that Zacchaeus felt that He was a part of God's family. Jesus wants us to feel a part of God's family too.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together, and review the memory verse.

[Jesus] Point upward.

came Bring hands toward self.

to seek Hand over eyes.

and to save . . . With fists crossed at the wrists, move hands apart.

what was lost. . . Fingertips of both hands together; drop hands apart.

Luke 19:10 . . . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Count out 10 coins of the same value. Say: Zacchaeus promised to give half of his money to the poor (take away five coins), and to give back four times as much as he had taken from those he had cheated. If Zacchaeus took one extra coin, he would give back four coins. How many coins did he have left?

MONDAY

Help your child share the Zacchaeus Tree from Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Zacchaeus. (Or help them draw a tree with Zacchaeus sitting in it.) Remember, Jesus wants them in His family too.

Sing “Zacchaeus” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 63).

TUESDAY

Talk about how Zacchaeus cheated people. Ask: How would you feel if I cheated? If I said I was sorry, would you forgive me and play with me again? Remind them how Zacchaeus felt when people didn’t forgive him.



WEDNESDAY

Take a walk around your neighborhood, and count the trees you see. If it’s safe, help your child sit on a limb while you sing “Zacchaeus” together.

THURSDAY

Play hide-and-seek with your child. Talk about the memory verse. Ask: What does that mean?

FRIDAY

Collect a stool, some money, a bag, and some leaves. Help your child use these to act out the story for your family. Ask: Would you want to watch for Jesus from a tree?

Help your child use clay to make a family plaque. Put everyone’s fingerprints and names on it. Say: We are a part of God’s family.

